



News From

JACK DOYLE

MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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DOYLE OUTLINES PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT Zoo Development Plan Released

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Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today released the final draft of the Seneca Park Zoo Development Plan and continuing public involvement opportunities in the Zoo's expansion plans.

"I am gratified by the continuing public support for the Zoo's expansion," said Doyle. "From the outset in 1990, again in 1997 through to 2000, we have welcomed and encouraged public participation in this process. Today, I invite all residents to participate in any of the three new Open House/Workshops scheduled for the month of October."

Three Open House/Workshops have been scheduled in October to insure that residents from all areas of the County have an opportunity to learn more about the development plans for the Zoo's expansion.

The scheduled dates are:

- Thursday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Seneca Park Zoo
- Thursday, October 12, 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Greece Town Hall
- Thursday, October 19, 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Perinton Town Hall

"We are focused on the future and the synergy we can develop by maximizing the potentials of both Seneca Park and the wonderful New Zoo within it," said Doyle. "The community's continuing involvement in this process is key to meeting the balanced needs of the majority who support the expansion, while addressing the concerns of those who have expressed reservations about the plan."

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The Zoo Development Plan has been under review and subject to revision since 1997 when the Zoo's attendance rose dramatically with the introduction of the Rocky Coasts Exhibit. The ever-popular, every changing dynamics of the zoo generated the need for a re-exploration of the zoo's potential and the developments required to make it happen. The development plan released today is subject to continuing revision but, on the whole, represents the best blend of two outstanding resources; Seneca Park and the expanded New Zoo within it.

In addition to the three scheduled public Open House/Workshops, two additional meetings, known as 'scoping' meetings, will be held at the start of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) phase of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process. These meetings will solicit additional ideas, suggestions, and concerns that should be addressed in the development of the EIS.

Those scheduled dates are:

- Tuesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. Pinegrove Community Center in the Town of Irondequoit
- Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 p.m. Rochester Museum and Science Center

A draft environmental impact statement should be available for both public review and comment by early spring, 2001. Additionally, a final environmental impact statement should be available by late spring, 2001. Final adoption of the plan is then subject to Legislative approval.

Speakers Bureau

"Over the past two months, more than 650 letters have been forwarded to a broad cross section of community groups inviting each to schedule a speaker on the topic of the New Zoo's expansion," said Doyle. "Representatives from the Zoo's administration and from the Seneca Park Zoo Society have already given more than twenty such presentations. I am pleased to say that the response has been both positive and constructive. On-going public support and participation is key to the success of this initiative."

Speakers continue to be available (to groups of 10 or more) to give a summary overview of the planned Zoo expansion and to answer questions or take comments regarding the plan. To schedule a group presentation on the Zoo, or any other topic regarding Monroe County government, phone the Monroe County Speakers Bureau at 428-4250. Information about the New Zoo expansion can also be obtained on the County's website (www.co.monroe.ny.us) under the Parks Department subsection.

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*For further information, call:
Communications & Special Events at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.co.monroe.ny.us*